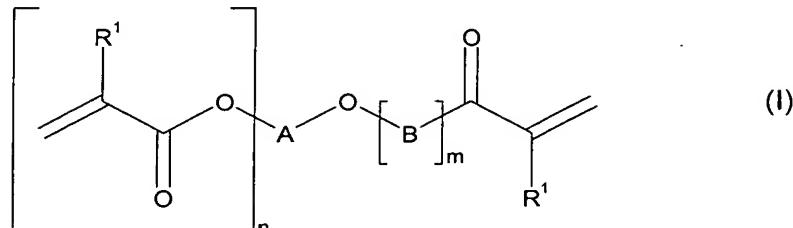


We claim:-

1. (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of the general formula I



5

where

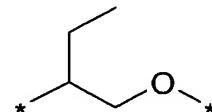
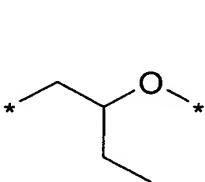
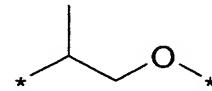
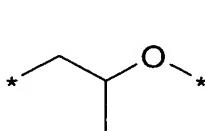
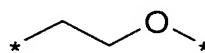
10 R^1 is hydrogen or methyl,

 n is an integer from 2 to 5,

 m is an integer from 1 to 100,

15 A is C_3 to C_{20} alk($n+1$)yl or C_3 to C_{20} heteroalk($n+1$)yl, and

 B represents identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of



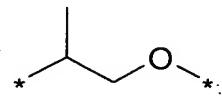
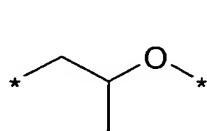
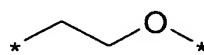
20

where * identifies the positions of attachment.

2. (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of the general formula I as per claim 1 where

R¹ is hydrogen or methyl,
 n 2 or 3,
 5 m is an integer from 2 to 50,
 A C₃ to C₁₀ alk(n+1)yl, and
 B represents identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of

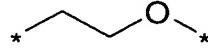
10



where * identifies the positions of attachment.

15 3. (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of the general formula I as per
 claim 1 where

R¹ is hydrogen or methyl,
 20 n is 2,
 m is an integer from 3 to 30,
 A is C₃ to C₆ alk(n+1)yl, and
 25 B is



30 where * identifies the positions of attachment.

4. (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of the general formula I as per
 any of claims 1 to 3 in which formula the polyol is glycerol.

5. A process for preparing the (meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols as per any of claims 1 to 4, comprising the steps of
 - 5 a) hydrolyzing the partially protected monoalkoxylated polyol in the presence of at least one hydrolysis catalyst and water,
 - b) reacting the monoalkoxylated polyol with (meth)acrylic acid in the presence of at least one esterification catalyst and of at least one polymerization inhibitor and optionally of a water-azeotroping solvent to form the (meth)acrylic ester of the monoalkoxylated polyol, it being possible to carry out b) in the same reactor as a),
 - c) optionally removing from the reaction mixture some or all of the water formed in b), during and/or after b),
 - d) optionally neutralizing the reaction mixture,
 - e) when a solvent was used, optionally removing this solvent.
- 10
- 15 6. Swellable hydrogel-forming polymer containing a copolymerized internal crosslinker of the general formula I according to any of claims 1 to 4.
- 20 7. A process for preparing crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymers as claimed in claim 6, which comprises polymerizing an aqueous mixture comprising a hydrophilic monomer, optionally at least one further monoethylenically unsaturated compound, at least one (meth)acrylic ester of monoalkoxylated polyols, at least one free-radical initiator and optionally also at least one grafting base, and optionally the reaction mixture obtained being postcrosslinked, dried
- 25 and brought to the desired particle size.
8. The use of crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymers as claimed in claim 6 for manufacturing a hygiene article.
- 30 9. A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer as claimed in claim 6.